

THE ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

April- May 1941

Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner

The St. Louis Bird Club is a quarter of a century old! And it's with the greatest of pleasure that we announce a twenty-fifth anniversary dinner to take place on Friday evening, May 16th at 7 o'clock at the Edgewater Club, 5500 S. Broadway. The dinner will be \$1.00 for club members and \$1.25 for their guests. Please place your reservations immediately with Mrs. H.R. Grummann, Club Secretary, 7330 Dorset, phone DE 3007.

Certainly no more appropriate speaker could be obtained for such an occasion than the man who is probably the best known ornithologist in the world, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson of New York City, founder and President Emeritus of the National Audubon Society, who will be our honor guest of the evening and who will present an illustrated lecture on "Birding Below the Line", an account of his recent bird tour of South America. Many of you know Dr. Pearson as author-in-chief of "Birds of America" or as Chairman of the Pan-American Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation. Known as the "Dean of Wildlife Conservation" he has devoted nearly forty years to bird study and wildlife conservation; he organized and presided over the seven World Conferences that have been held in Europe during the past nineteen years for bird preservation; he is a frequent contributor to scientific and popular magazines, including, "World's Work", "National Geographic", "Colliers", etc.; and his autobiography, "Adventures in Bird Protection" was published in 1936. He has studied birds from northern Alaska to the Straits of Magellan, in the West Indies, and in fourteen European countries. We could go on and on acclaiming Dr. Pearson. But just come to the dinner and join us in a personal acclamation of this great ornithologist, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson.

The occasion, as we've said, is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the St. Louis Bird Club. It's been a long search, this finding out about the beginning of the Club. Actually the exact date of its inception is not yet ascertained but we have proof enough that we're within a very few months of the correct date. Close enough, certainly, that the occasion should be celebrated. It was finally our very good friend, Mrs. M. W. Philippi, daughter of Otto Widmann, Missouri's greatest ornithologist, who uncovered a report on "Bird Clubs and Other Societies for Bird Protection", written by her father and read by him before the St. Louis Naturalist Club in February, 1916, and the Missouri Audubon Society on December 21, 1917, which tells of the founding of the St. Louis Bird Club. We quote from the report, which is in Mr. Widmann's remarkable handwriting: "Mr. Ralph Hofmann, formerly of Kansas City, now of St. Louis, the present vice-president of the Missouri Audubon Society, started the first Bird Club in this state a few years ago, and Mr. Robert Terry is the originator and organizer of the lately formed St. Louis Bird Club, he being the president. Mr. E. Christie vice-president, and Mrs. Greenman secretary and treasurer." However, several words had been lightly crossed out and some added such that the line read originally, "Mr. Hofmann of Kansas City, the present vice-president of the Missouri Audubon Society, started the first Bird Club in this state last year, and Dr. Robert Terry is in the act of bringing together members for a newly-formed St. Louis Bird Club, he being the president, Mr. E. Christie.....". A close perusal of the report leads one to believe that before Mr. Widmann read the report in 1917 at the Missouri Audubon Society meeting he made a few changes in the continuity due to changing conditions since he'd made the Naturalist Club report in February 1916. And it is reasonable to assume that the partly crossed out statement, "Dr. Robert Terry is in the act of bringing together members for a newly-formed St. Louis Bird Club" was the one he read before the Naturalist Club in February, 1916. This would indicate that the St. Louis Bird Club was founded shortly before February, 1916. Dr. Terry so far has been unable to locate an exact date, but he definitely recalls that the organization meeting was held in winter, doubtless the winter of 1915-1916. Minutes in the Club Secretary's files indicate that the First Annual Meeting of the Club was held on March 31, 1917, and cards, indicating the dates when life members joined, go back to 1916. For the moment, there the case rests. Whether the date was early 1916 or late 1915, certainly a 25th anniversary should be observed.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Widmann's report spoke frequently of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, who at that time was already an eminent ornithologist, and also the following quotations should interest all of you who make up today's St. Louis Bird Club: "We must not confound Bird Clubs with Ornithological Clubs, formerly also sometimes called Bird Clubs. Ornithological Clubs, are made up of bird students. Bird Clubs, as the term is now understood, are composed of people who love birds without trying to get intimately acquainted with them. We may call them bird lovers or bird friends who are awokened by the threatening scarcity of wild birds to do something to protect them and to attract birds to localities now deserted. Most of the members of a Bird Club are satisfied with knowing by name a few of the commoner birds and their habits, but have no time or inclination or opportunity to make a study of ornithology. We may compare them with persons who love flowers but would never think of studying botany or of becoming scientific botanists. The number of Bird Clubs may therefore become innumerable, and indeed they count already by hundreds, while the Ornithological Clubs are naturally few and far between.... It is accepted as a fact that what the individual bird lover can not attain, an association of citizens under good leadership may accomplish. For instance, the erection of bird boxes in public parks and cemeteries is one of the aims of the St. Louis Bird Club, possibly also the establishment of a real bird sanctuary at the terminus of the Creve Coeur Lake trolley line or some other suitable place. Of course it would require a strong organization to accomplish much, but as the membership fee is only fifty cents a year, it may be expected that every nature lover will join, if he can be reached."

Lecture Resume

Our lecture season was a decided success. With us on October 1st was Allen Cruickshank; December 9th, Miles D. Pirnie; January 6th, Cleveland P. Grant; January 13th, Richard Pough; February 20th, Olin Sewall Pettingill and George Miksch Sutton; April 3rd, W. J. Breckenridge; and April 29th, C. E. Gillham. The total attendance at these lectures was 3,650.

Resume of April Bird Walks.

Practically all records were broken during this season's Forest Park Bird Walks. The total attendance for the four April Walks was 835 as compared with 725 in 1940 and 375 in 1939. The total species observed was 92 as compared with 80 for 1940 and 73 for 1939. The highest one-day attendance was 300 on the last Sunday of the month. And one of the best records of all was the number of leaders on hand. To much can't be said about the splendid work of our leaders. To the Blewett and Southwest Bird Clubs many thanks too for their valuable assistance. Following is the list of species observed during the month on the Walks: pied-billed grebe, green heron, black-crowned night heron, Canada goose, mallard, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, wood duck, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup duck, red-tailed hawk, broad-winged hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, bob white, coot, killdeer, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, mourning dove, chimney swift, belted kingfisher, flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, prairie horned lark, barn swallow, purple martin, blue jay, crow, black capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, brown creeper, carolina wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, olive-backed thrush, bluebird, blue gray gnatcatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, starling, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, magnolia warbler, myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, pine warbler, palm warbler, canadian warbler, english sparrow, meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, baltimore oriole, rusty blackbird, bronzed grackle, cowbird, cardinal, indigo bunting, purple finch, goldfinch, towhee, savannah sparrow, vesper sparrow, lark sparrow, junco, chipping sparrow, tree sparrow, field sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, white-throated sparrow, fox sparrow, swamp sparrow, song sparrow

Officers

President-----Wayne Short, 1207 N. 7th CE 0631
Vice-President---Henry Kennon, Curator of the Bird House, St. Louis Zoo
Secretary-----Mrs. H. R. Grummann, 7330 Dorset, University City DE 3007
Treasurer-----Nelle Lee Jenkinson, 4497 Pershing FR 5511
Editor-----Marvin Beckmann, 3665 Roswell Ave.

The Club Stationery.

Don't forget that our wonderful new Club stationery by Richard Grossenheider can be obtained by contacting the Club Secretary. You may purchase any quantity desired at the bargain rate of one cent per sheet and one cent per envelope.

The Jones' Check List.

A new edition of Mr. Sterling P. Jones' Check-List has just been published. It's a necessity for anyone who studies birds in this area. The nice feature about it is that it's actually a time-table--lists the arrival and departure time of any species coming our way, whether a bird nests here, and whether it's a permanent resident or migrant. And a splendid thing about it is that it eliminates all species that aren't found in the St. Louis region. So you're not apt to get out of bounds when you're trying to track down some puzzling species. This booklet also contains a splendid and detailed account of the European Tree Sparrow. You may obtain a copy for ten cents from the Club Secretary. Don't fail to own this extremely valuable contribution to St. Louis Bird study.

Welcome !!!

The Southwest High School Bird Club and the McKinley High School Bird Club are now affiliated with the St. Louis Bird Club. We are happy to announce the following as affiliate members:

Southwest High School

McKinley High School

Bird Club

Bird Club

Cohen, Richard
Frey, Norman
Glauser, Bernice
Haffelder, Georgene
Kersten, Robert
Koenig, Clinton
Lenck, Bill
Randall, Teeuwen
Schaeffer, Don
Schroell, Robert
Shields, Warren
Tremain, Irl
Vollmer, Frances

Burlis, Norbert
Fanz, Andrew
Franks, Jean
Johnson, James
Kasch, Joyce
Krist, Wanita
Laub, Marjorie
Ohms, Audrey
Malik, Anna
Schell, Helen
Schellhardt, Rosemarie
Walmoth, Geraldine

New Members

We welcome the following new members since March 1st:

Sustaining

Walsh, Mrs. Edward J.

Boyd, Ingram F. Sr.

Active

Brewer, Mrs. Doralouise

Mette, Delphia

Beese, Dorothy C.

Micel, Pearl

Bock, H. J.

Miller, Milt

Boulton, Kathrine

Morgan, George W.

Cunliff, Mrs. Hildegarde

Moyer, Harry Lee

Cutter, Dorothy

Oakes, Mrs. Helen

Diers, Mrs. E. A.

Oehler, Mrs. Elmer W.

Erker, Anita

Oonk, George B.

Guest, H. W.

Reilly, Alice

Hausdorf, Miss M.

Richter, Arthur

Herbert, Raymond L.

Ruff, Donald

Heard, Richard

Schroeder, Margaret

Kirchner, Dr. Walter C. G.

Schweig, Martin

Klingel, Miss Patty

Smith, Marjorie

Langenohl, Louise

Soto, Louis

Lavender, W. A.

Stine, Adele

Leonard, Iva E.

Stine, Janet

Liebermann, Walter

Thomas, Bill

Lefebvre, Carrie S.

Thomasson, Zara

McKillop, Mrs. Hulda

Webber, Mrs. D. C.

Manley, Thomas

Weber, Elizabeth

Marchi, Mario

Wilson, Julia

March-Mount, Margaret

Coming Events

There are only two Bird Club activities remaining on the calendar for the spring season. The annual spring census is to take place at Creve Coeur Lake on Sunday, May 11th, starting at 6 A. M. from the spot where the Sea Scout Base was located before it burned. Only the morning will be devoted to a group census and party will break up into smaller groups of our crack bird spotters who'll work fast and furiously the remainder of the day in an attempt to cover as much ground as possible. We expect this to be a banner census.

On June 29th the annual marsh wade of the St. Louis Bird Club and the Webster Groves Nature Society will take place starting from the Boschertown School House, 3 miles north of St. Charles on Highway 94, at 6:30 A.M. That's the last Sunday in June. Come prepared to wade through the marshes in hip or knee deep water. It's great sport and the birds you'll see will be ample reward. Don't burden yourself down with clothes. Best advice to the ladies is that you wear old slacks, old shoes and stockings. You'll find it easier going and won't get scratched by reeds. There are no snakes. And really, once you've gotten up the courage to do it, you'll never want to miss another marsh wade.